

Climate Science and Renewable Energy Branch

Overview

The importance of effectively responding to climate change and actively supporting renewable energy development is clear, and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is steadfast in its commitment to minimize the effects of renewable energy development and climate change on California's fish, wildlife, and habitats. To honor this commitment, the Department created the Climate Science and Renewable Energy Branch to address climate change adaptation and mitigation and renewable energy development in a meaningful way that protects not only species and habitats, but the services they provide to the economy and citizens of California. By addressing these issues, the climate science and renewable energy programs are playing a vital role in conserving California's rich biodiversity for future generations to enjoy.



Climate Science Program *Program Goals*

- Support the Department's efforts to safeguard California's fish, wildlife, habitats, and the services they provide through a proactive, adaptive, and collaborative approach that embodies the theme of the program: Unity Integration Action.
- Develop a collective vision for climate change adaptation planning across the state, focusing on biodiversity conservation.
- Create and maintain climate change partnerships through collaboration and coordination with national, regional, and local agencies and organizations to prioritize research needs and ensure that the best available science is informing management actions.
- Take actions to help the Department reduce its carbon footprint and create a more sustainable working environment.
- Provide internal support for staff to effectively address climate change in daily operations; evaluate existing policies and programs to incorporate climate change and seek regulatory changes as appropriate.

Renewable Energy Program *Program Goals*

- Support the use of renewable energy as a means for reducing carbon emissions, minimizing reliance on imported foreign oil, maintaining clean air and water, and supporting future economic growth while maintaining California's diverse natural resources.
- Review environmental project documents prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and provide comments and recommendations to fulfill the DFG's trustee and responsible agency obligations under CEQA.
- Ensure compliance with and issues permits under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), meet the requirements of the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act, SB 34 Advance Mitigation implementation.
- Actively participate on the Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT) to create a streamlined process for renewable energy permitting and to reduce impacts from renewable energy development.